



# Par for the Course

6700 Telegraph Road Alexandria VA 22310 703-971-3888 TTY 703-324-3988

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## **New assistant course manager also is teacher**

**Sarah Ann Harmon** – she prefers to be called just Sarah – teaches college students in addition to her full-time job as the new assistant manager of Greendale Golf Course.

She is an adjunct member of the faculty at Northern Virginia Community College and soon Sarah will also teach at George Mason University, where she got her

degree in 2002. She also has an associate of science degree from NOVA.

Among the courses she teaches is program planning, which grows out of her college degree, a bachelor in science in healthful and recreational resources. Such planning includes such events as golf tournaments, a skill she intends to use at Greendale next year.

Sarah has been an employee of the Fairfax County Park Authority since 1997. Her last job was food and beverage manager at Pinecrest Golf Course. She took over at Greendale from Patrick Burns on July 30. She also had worked as a naturalist for the Loudon County Department of Recreation.

A distinction that few in Fairfax County can claim is one Sarah has: she grew up on a 300-acre farm, albeit it was not being farmed, in Herndon. Across the street, however, were two cattle farms. She had to take dirt roads to get to her schools, all in Herndon. Until the toll road was built, her family had to shop for groceries in Leesburg. Change has been rapid in her short life.

At NOVA she teaches recreational backpacking, one of her favorite pastimes. The class sessions include camping trips, some just overnight but other longer. The material covers everything from what and how to pack to choosing trails and camping sites, fire building, and clothing. One requirement for the class is buying and wearing proper boots for at least three weeks before the first outdoor excursion. Sarah recalls one student who bought her boots the night before she needed them and whose feet were nearly lacerated as a result.

Does Sarah golf? Yes, but she doesn't keep a handicap.

## ***Those weeds not crab grass***

*By Keith Tasaka*

Those weeds that look like crab grass showing up in and around Greendale's greens are actually goose grass.

What is more, goose grass is brought on by weather conditions. The hot, dry, humid summer topped off by drought has brought trouble to golf courses up and down the East Coast. The Mid-Atlantic Green Section of the United States Golf Association issued a maintenance alert about those weather conditions earlier in the summer. So Greendale is not the only course where golfers are experiencing such problems.

Fortunately, the same weather conditions are the reason the Bermuda fairways have done so well. Unfortunately, Bermuda greens cannot be established this far north.

**Please repair your ball marks; you probably will putt Greendale greens again.**

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Goose grass is a summer annual weed. The first hard frost will take care of the problem. The chemical that we use to stop goose grass from germinating broke down. Ultraviolet rays were among the causes of that breakdown.

A major problem in combating goose grass is that no post-emergent herbicide exists.

Heat and humidity and drought, they are the killers; the fairways love that.

As this is written we still have drought conditions. We strive to have a balance in what we have to do that allows the customers to play. Aeration is something we have to do to continually improve the greens. Ideally we should aerate four times a year instead of twice.

### **Even lowly tee must meet rules**

Manufacturers looking for a way into the golfer's wallet have submitted almost 100 designs for tees to the United States Golf Association for approval in the last five years. Perhaps astonishing is that nearly a third failed to conform to the rules for tee design.

*Inside the USGA*, an association publication, noted in a recent issue that a definition for a tee was added to the Rules of Golf in 2004. A tee is defined as a device to raise the ball off the ground, but it must be no longer than 4 inches and it must not be designed or made in such a way that it could indicate the line of play or influence the movement of the ball.

A player that uses a tee failing to meet the definition could be disqualified from a tournament. If you buy a new-fangled tee you might want to check first to see if it conforms to the rules.

### **Club Championship**

If you have a current Greendale handicap you may play in the annual Club Championship on Oct. 22. The winner gets a reserved parking space for a year. **Bill Miller** plans to defend his championship.

### **Women golfers plan luncheon**

*By Cookie Ingraham*

The Greendale Women's Golf Association will celebrate a successful 2005 season Nov. 6 with its closing luncheon and awards presentation at the Mount Vernon Inn.

"A friendly but fairly serious league" is one description applied to the approximately 50 players who compete weekly between April and the end of October.

The league jump started its activities with an *Improve Your Play* round in May by playing alongside teaching pros. Additional activities included monthly clinics, golf-related luncheon presentations, a league picnic, and a scheduled two-day golf trip to The Shenvalee resort in New Market to close the season.

Numerous league members competed well in tournaments throughout the state that were sponsored by the Virginia State Golf Association.

The league expressed its particular appreciation of the support offered by Greendale's management team and volunteers. Its members would not have enjoyed its many activities without the help of pros and other golfing friends.

The league experienced a considerable loss with the death of Joe McNiff and has dedicated a plaque to hang in the Greendale clubhouse.

Women interested in joining the league can obtain a membership form in the clubhouse.

### **Why neglect match play?**

When was the last time you arrived at Greendale with a golfing buddy and decided on match play? Never did. That is the probable answer.

***Look over the new stock in proshop; try the tasty items on the expanded menu.***



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Nearly two centuries ago -- in 1807 -- the first rules of stroke play were laid down. But golf goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

The Walker Cup, the Ryder Cup, the Solheim Cup and the President's Cup all are decided with various forms of match play.

One problem with match play -- and perhaps the factor that keeps the PGA Tour and television sponsors from that format -- is that the match may not go 18 holes, or it may go added holes.

For Greendale golfers, that could mean having to find some way of deciding a match that is all square at the end of 18. No problem just playing out the final holes, even if the match ends 10 and 8.

Match play can be fun. If one has a really bad hole, it can be made up on the next hole. Two fairly equal players can use strategy in match play. If one has a bad second shot, the other can aim for the middle of the green instead of going pin hunting. Or should one force his opponent make a short putt. And there is an opportunity for real sportsmanship in conceding a putt.

Playing a match now and then may be amusing and also a bow to the great tradition of the game of golf.

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